

What is claimed is:

1. A method for supplying a flowable medium to the tobacco of a smoking product (2), wherein the medium is introduced on a drum (1) of a cigarette machine, after the rod is formed.
2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the flowable medium is introduced as a liquid, pasty, powdery, filiform or gaseous medium.
3. The method as set forth in claim 1 or 2, wherein the flowable medium is introduced into the rod of the smoking product, in particular a cigarette, by means of a hollow mandrel (16), in particular by inserting the hollow mandrel (16) into a front end and discharging the medium from the hollow mandrel while withdrawing it from the rod.
4. The method as set forth in claim 3, wherein the hollow mandrel (16) is moved at a uniform speed with respect to the rod when introducing the medium, allowing distribution of the medium over the rod.
5. The method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the medium is introduced on an already available or additional drum (1) of the filter assembler of the cigarette machine.

6. The method as set forth in any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the hollow mandrel (16), in particular together with other hollow mandrels, is held on a carrier drum (5) or section of a carrier drum rotating synchronously with the drum (1).

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- 5 7. The method as set forth in any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the hollow mandrel (16), which in particular is provided with screw-like outer grooves, is inserted into and extracted from the rod with auto-rotation, in particular with auto-rotation in opposite directions for inserting and extracting.

- 10 8. The method as set forth in claim 6 or 7, wherein the flowable medium is supplied to the hollow mandrel (16) and/or rod by means of the rotational centrifugal forces of the rotating carrier drum (5).

- 15 9. The method as set forth in claim 6 or 7, wherein the flowable medium is supplied to the hollow mandrel (16) and/or rod by means of a pump.

10. The method as set forth in any one of claims 8 or 9, wherein the flow of the medium is regulated by means of a valve/control means.

- 20 11. A device for supplying a flowable medium to the tobacco of a smoking product (2), characterized in that it comprises a means by which the medium is introduced on a drum (1) of the cigarette machine, after the rod has been formed.

12. The device as set forth in claim 11, characterized in that it comprises a hollow mandrel (16), by means of which the flowable medium is introduced into the rod of the smoking product, in particular a cigarette, in particular by inserting the hollow mandrel (16) into the front end and discharging the medium from the hollow mandrel while withdrawing it from the rod.

13. The device as set forth in claim 12, characterized in that it comprises an axial movement means (5, 6, 7, 8, 9), which moves the hollow mandrel (16) at a uniform speed with respect to the rod when introducing the medium, allowing the medium to be distributed over the rod.

14. The device as set forth in any one of claims 11 to 13, characterized in that an already available or additional drum (1) of the filter assembler of the cigarette machine is used as a holding means for the smoking product (2) when introducing the medium.

15. The device as set forth in any one of claims 12 to 14, characterized in that it comprises a carrier drum (5) or section of a carrier drum rotating synchronously with the drum (1) as a holding device for the hollow mandrel (16), in particular also for other hollow mandrels.

16. The device as set forth in any one of claims 13 to 15, characterized in that the axial movement means comprises a sliding part (6) on which the hollow mandrel (16), in particular fastened to an application body (10), may slide axially when being inserting into or extracted from the rod, wherein the axial movement is generated via an inclined plate

(9), in particular a cam plate, on which a running bearing (7, 8) connected to the sliding part (6) runs off.

17. The device as set forth in any one of claims 13 to 16, characterized in that it comprises a rotating means (11, 12, 13, 32) with which the hollow mandrel (16), which in particular is provided with screw-like outer grooves, is provided with auto-rotation when it is inserted into the rod and extracted from it, in particular with auto-rotation in opposing directions when inserted and extracted.

18. The device as set forth in claim 17, characterized in that the rotating means comprises a rotating bearing (32) for the application body (10), to which the hollow mandrel (16) is fastened, as well as toothed wheels (11) on the circumference which mesh with respective tooth meshings (12, 13) and effect the respective auto-rotation when the hollow mandrel (16) and/or the application body (10) is moved axially.

19. The device as set forth in claims 15 to 18, characterized in that it comprises a supplying means (25, 26) which supplies the flowable medium to the hollow mandrel (16) and/or rod by means of the rotational centrifugal forces of the rotating carrier drum (5).

20. The device as set forth in claim 19, characterized in that the supplying means comprises a conduit (26) centered on the rotational axis of the carrier drum (5), from which the respective application bodies (10) and/or hollow mandrels (16) are fed with the medium via radially arranged, rotating feed lines (25).

Suba 21. The device as set forth in any one of claims 11 to 18, characterized in that it comprises a pump, by means of which the flowable medium is supplied to the hollow mandrel (16) and/or the rod.

5 22. The device as set forth in any one of claims 19 to 21, characterized in that it comprises a valve/control means (15, 27-31), using which the flow of the medium is regulated.

23. The device as set forth in any one of claims 12 to 22, characterized in that the number of hollow mandrels simultaneously introducing the medium substantially corresponds to the number of smoking products held on the drum (1).

10 24. The device as set forth in any one of claims 12 to 23, characterized in that the number of hollow mandrels simultaneously introducing the medium corresponds to a portion of the number of smoking products (2) held on the drum (1), and the medium is introduced sequentially into respectively successive partial quantities of the smoking products.

15 25. The device as set forth in any one of claims 11 to 15 and 19 to 24, characterized in that it comprises an axial and radial movement means (40-54) which translates the machine-drive movement into rotational, inserting and extracting movement for the hollow mandrels (16) by means of drive pulleys and cam guidings.

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